

**PAC Meeting: January 20, 2005**  
**Hallmark Resort**  
**Newport, OR**

**Salem RAC Projects:** (Paul Jeske, Salem BLM)

*See presentation handout.*

*See funding/proposal handouts (title II monies).*

Annabelle Jaramillo: Lobbied support to contact legislatures to extend RAC legislative authority.

Annabelle: On RAC successes: It invites collaboration, directs attention to work on the ground. It has improved relationships between political entities. Pre-proposal screening processes have reduced frustrations of developing full proposals that end up not getting funded.

Ron Phillips: Doesn't see development or maintenance of trails. Is this forbidden?

Annabelle: Approval is dependent on the strength of the proposal in relation to other proposals received. There hasn't been an overt effort to block proposals related to trails.

Bill Helphinsine: Siuslaw RAC addresses work that is ready to go "on the ground," not on funding the planning phases of projects (which is the state of the Valley to Coast trail proposal).

Brad Keller: Pointed out that one rails-to-trails project had indeed been funded.

**Siuslaw N.F. RAC:** (Linda Stanley)

*See project summary handout.*

Primary purposes (projects that receive the majority of funds): Road maintenance, watershed restoration and noxious weed control.

Rennie Ferris: Offered to provide more information about herbicide uses and treatment efficacy on noxious weeds to anyone interested.

Linda offered to distribute Web addresses of "call for proposals" later.

- URL 1:
- URL 2:

Brad: Regarding dumping problems, he recommended studying Clacamas County's "Dump Stoppers" (\$230,000-\$250,000) Program. RAC funding pays for law enforcement and prosecutors dedicated to going after illegal dumpers. The program also includes signage/education pieces that encouraging "neighborhood watch" vigilance among community members and forest-users. The program has been extremely successful, but it's very expensive. Good use of Title II funds. (He later mentioned that the University of Oregon is doing a long-term study on trash, including developing a Web site for reporting.)

**Eugene BLM RAC:** (Wayne Elliott)

*See proposed and approved summary handout.*

Rennie: Advocated herbicide use in noxious weed control. Thinks recent results/breakthroughs will change resistance/ojections posed by some opponents.

[http://www.notes.fs.fed.us:81/r4/payments\\_to\\_states.nsf](http://www.notes.fs.fed.us:81/r4/payments_to_states.nsf)      National Payments to States Database

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/siuslaw/>      Siuslaw National Forest Web

<http://www.aocweb.org/Default.htm>      Association of Oregon Counties

**Corvallis Municipal Watershed:** (Jim Fairchild)

Jim Fairchild presented a project proposal to potentially be endorsed by the PAC for RAC funding: Fish Passage Improvement Project in the Corvallis Municipal Watershed.

Focus species: Cutthroat trout (native)

Greasy Creek Subbasin of Marys River (a.k.a. S. Fork Marys River)

Purpose: Restore connectivity of waterways for fish passage throughout the subbasin. Accomplished through culvert replacement and other passage modifications designed for trout as opposed to salmon.

Benefits:

- Restores resilience and ecosystem functions to remnant native forests of the Oregon Coast range.
- Reconnects populations of genetically isolated fish with high quality habitat of the Marys River watershed
- Improves road system and future access to water system infrastructure
- Continues collaboration between gov't agencies, non-profits and interested citizens.

Jose Lineras: Restoring habitat and watersheds is a type of project that's expensive, so we'd need to look at different sources of funding (OWEB grants), planning and prioritization, as well as resources necessary for pre-work.

Ron: Favored the proposal, but due to the expensive of the overall project, thought it would be better to position the proposal as a series of smaller, cheaper projects that could be funded over a span of time.

Fairchild: City of Corvallis would be the applicant. Soil and Water Conservation District has offered to write the grant.

Mike Wilson: Danger of working in a municipal watershed in that the City can control flowage based on needs. Would that nullify improvements?

Fairchild: City has water rights from other sources, so that gives habitat some range of protection.

### **Other PAC-RAC proposals:**

Jose: Even if don't have specific project, general feedback or recommendations would be helpful as well. Siuslaw N.F. formulating its recommendations/proposals to submit to the RAC.

Mike Wilson: Increased consideration of thinning projects.

Someone mentioned Rock Creek culvert project (Fairchild's proposal)

Barry: Trails (OHV, hiking, equestrian, water, bicycling). Conceded it was hard to prioritize which trail and which user-group should be addressed first.

Paul Jeske: Suggested a letter encouraging the RACs to analyze funding distribution and seek a greater balance among all project types.

Barry: Would like to fund projects that have benefits that aren't so quantifiable on the ground, such as the benefits youth experience in youth job corps programs.

Bill: Provided examples of "thinning" projects for the PAC: wildlife restoration, accelerate generation of late-successional characteristics.

Betty Jean: Voiced support for weed control projects.

Annabelle: Weed control is a good vehicle for collaboration across large geographic areas.

Joni: Restated the goal expressed from a previous PAC meeting: The PAC wanted to compose a letter advocating a particular project or area of consideration for the different RACs to give their consideration.

Rennie: Thinks thinning money should come from someplace other than the RACs.

Mike Kennedy: Thinks it should be included in the mix.

Vicki Gillam: Suggest two-prong approach to letter: Develop criteria list, then resource management issues that would most need addressing.

Rennie: When do we need to become fully engaged in this process?

Annabelle: To successfully lobby Congress to extend RAC authority, eastern states need to become engaged in the benefits of the program. Western states have more buy-in because they get more noticeable benefits. For political support, we need to get schools and education tied into the program. The lobbying has begun, but any support we can get from local contacts would be helpful. Contacts: Rocky McVey of Association of Oregon Counties and the National Association of Counties. (Trish will send out contact info and county payments Web site.)

Annabelle: It would be acceptable for the PAC to ask counties for their documentation of RAC projects.

Ron: PAC Trail Sub-committee, with some trepidation, become a clearinghouse of trails projects. Putting together project evaluation forms for standardized analysis. Beginning work on multi-purpose trails (more users, more political clout). Three main ones:

1. McMinnville to the Coast
2. Corvallis to the Sea
3. Eugene to the Sea

Ron: There's a lot of economic benefit coming into the Coast from Valley. Trails will bring people to the Coast. (Though not directly stated, Ron perhaps was alluding to support or a vested interest by Coastal businesses in such trails due to perceived economic benefits resulting from the trails' completions).

Ron: ATV group has substantial funding. He could envision all the other agencies pitching in money, so they can get somewhere.

The next Trails Sub-committee Meeting is at 7:15 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 8, at the Siuslaw National Forest Supervisor's Office in Corvallis. All are welcome. He anticipated the sub-committee might come up with some projects for this year.

They could start a multi-year development plan. Also coordinate with the State Parks trails plan.

Trish: Joni will develop letter (criteria, followed by resource mgmt), then send draft to group for consideration.

### **Overview of FY05 Work Plan (by agency)**

#### **BLM - Eugene:** (Wayne Elliot)

*See attached "Eugene District Work Priority Direction for FY05."*

Please note: In-stream restoration project for Lobster Creek. It falls within the PAC area of interest.

#### **Siuslaw N.F.:** (Jose Linares)

Aquatics program: Drift Creek restoration plan. \$350,000 from outside grants to begin implementation.

Mgmt strategy for Five Mile Dell Property for invasive weeds.

Phase IV of Siuslaw Restoration Initiative.....Interpretive Trail. Port of Siuslaw working with state for possible water trail.

F.S. Region 6 (Washington and Oregon) cautions plans to increase trail mileage due to concerns about funding upkeep. Building new trails more feasible with the abandonment of an equal amount of existing trails.

Implementation of EPA Grant: Lower Siuslaw Project. Also working with Salem BLM to prioritize fish passage on the Nestucca River and fish habitat restoration in the Yachats River.

#### **Wildlife:**

- Working with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to develop 250 acres of meadow management.
- Snowy plover: predator control and habitat.

#### **Timber:**

- Planning 340MBF, exceeds targets.
- Continuing stewardship project...ID Alsea group.

Recreation:

- Sand camping EA. Described developed camping concept on the Dunes. Deferred maintenance work on the Cape Perpetua Visitors Center.
- Completed new parking lot at Sand Lake.
- Improving ADA compliance to various sites.

Had meetings with Kathrine Mater to discuss applying CROP model to the Coast. CROP focuses on developing investment into small wood market. It looks at ownership, species and diameter of wood; coordinates timber sales between agencies to offer more steady supply of timber. More appealing for investments through market assessment and analysis.

Stewardship Project: Starting new area near Alsea. Also looking at implementing an area in the Hebo District. Several projects approved to be accomplished on private land (riparian planting and release, culvert replacement; logs in streams, road rehabilitation). Another round this spring. Information will be available on the Web. Money generated by timber sales held on the stewardship unit gets used to do restoration work on the unit. For a project to be considered under the stewardship program, it must have an impact on federal land, even if the actual work isn't done on federal land. Thinning provides the funding to do the restoration projects. Money can't be used on overhead or federal salaries.

Ron: Industry puts a lot of money into ATVs, which get ridden on public lands. Dunes are 10 years behind the needs of the ATV-riding population. "Dirt Wheels" magazine has letter to the editor section, and each month, 3-5 letters appear about the Dunes written by people not from the Pacific Northwest.

Paul Jeske: State has OHV funds which can be used on federal lands.

Jose: Rec fees also generate revenue. Having designated sits allows us to maintain the area better.

Ron: The Siuslaw National Forest needs to find a way to create more riding space to accommodate the increased popularity of the sport.

Salem BLM: (Brad Keller)

*See Project Update handout.*

RMP: Revision starts this year. August is key public involvement time. Initial scooping and public contacts done in August.

**Round Robin**

Kim: Pre-commercial thinning not included in timber sales. Attended trails sub-committee meeting. It was interesting and got herself up to speed. Sees good potential.

Ron: Aware that we have problems, but through the years add a parenthesis for (opportunities).

Barry: Sierra Club alive and well. Have plans to work with Traci Meredith to do some work around Alsea Falls and clean up any trails on Marys Peak. We've talked about trails, but no net gain in trails throughout Region 6 (Washington and Oregon). The pressure is increasing for the use of trails, and it's going to continue to grow. They need to start considering how to accommodate this growth before people start doing things that we don't want them to do. Maybe we could use abandoned roads. I hope we can find the people and money to maintain these trails because we're going to need them.

Greg: Lost forester to a heart attack. Advertising position now. We're almost back online, but then, only internally.

Annabelle: (1) Forest education – developing through OSU Extension and Kids Day for Conservation. Management of gifted forestland plan finished. (2) Updating stewardship plans. Opened new open space area north of Philomath. (3) Title III dollars going to planning on the forest-urban interface. Dollars also going to Philomath and Corvallis forest education programs.

Betty Jean: No new trails mandate not good in these times because we need to get people out in the trails. We need a creative solution. Horse clubs and bicycle clubs do a lot of maintenance. We should be encouraging volunteer work. Thought our trailhead dollars were going to trails, so now I'm wondering what's being done with these dollars? (Jose later clarified that the trail policy was more of a guideline.)

Pre-SOLVE clean-up. March 12 is the clean-up of Baker Beach.

Master plan for Elijah Bristol State Park were not really part of the trail system of the park, so now getting them mapped out so they are part of the trails system. Volunteer doing the GPS work.

Trailheads aren't compatible to horse trailers. Would like more money focused on trail work, but also supplemented by volunteer work.

Ron: There's a natural way to help this situation. ATVs could set up machine that was set up out of State Parks, then various people could use the machine, sharing its use and expense.

Jose: Haven't made a decision on the South Zone office location. FS just issued new planning rules. We can arrange a later presentation with the PAC. Siuslaw not due for a revision for another few years. Budget is getting tight. 2006 might be a difficult year. Tommy Thompson, Siuslaw Forest Supervisor in the 1980s, just announced his retirement for March 3.

Joe: Trail maintenance: Helpful tool is the "Adopt A Trail" program. Statewide crew, motorized crew that went around on FS and BLM trails in Colorado. It worked out really well. Worked so well in Colorado, ended up funding regional trail crews.

Add another project to Brad's list: Receiving a good chunk of money for Yaquina Head Lighthouse restoration. It's a once in 50-year project, but requires the lighthouse to be shut down for a while this summer. Changing colors to black and white, gray trim: original color scheme.

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act: made fee demo program permit (or as least as permanent as it can be). Put constraints on where agencies could charge fees. One of the provisions of the bills is the implementing of the use of RACs to give communities more of a voice in determining fee sites and prices.

Dick: By nature I'm fairly conservative person. We have a rich, wonderful resource here. Title I, II, III moneys equates to welfare in my mind. We can take care of these things by ourselves. We're setting ourselves up to be dependent on D.C. with RAC money, and I'm not comfortable with that. I see micromanaging of Forest Plans. We need to trust agencies to carry out these plans.

A couple meetings back, someone mentioned a faulty culvert, but he wouldn't replace it because it would be easier process-wise to let it wash out and fix it later. We need to trust public officials more.

Starker Forests has an upcoming tree-planting day. Groups can sign up by contacting the Starker office. Hot dogs and T-shirts given away.

Mike Kennedy: Tribe applied to Dept. of Commerce for grant for Community Restoration. Working on native oyster restoration in Yaquina Bay. Perhaps start as early as this summer.

Continue estuary monitoring in the Siletz Estuary. Also looking at Nestucca and Coquille. Looking at pre- and post-restoration conditions. Using new monitoring techniques: set up underwater video monitoring. Gathering a lot of information.

Otis area: Request of a sweat lodge on FS land. Working through NEPA process.

Paul Jeske: Mention a couple documents: FY03 accomplishment report. Also available through the agency's Web site.



Ecology program: Landowners guide to restoring and maintaining oak habitat. Video coming out in June. Available online as well. Contact BLM office for copies.

Bill H.: Siuslaw RiverPrize celebration. Johnny Sunstrom and Johan Hogervorst and Eric Husbaum in a community forum radio program. Celebration Friday, Jan. 28, 7-10 p.m. at the Florence Events Center. Community invited and welcome. Music, food and kids activities. [Send info to Trish, and she'll distribute.]

Frank Davis: 2009 Siuslaw's next planning date. Yes, we're working hard on the sweat lodge.

**Next Meeting:**

April 21, Siuslaw S.O. in Corvallis.